

What is claimed is:

1. A system enabling a user of an application object, comprising an executable portion of an executable application, to access documents external to said application, comprising:

- 5 a map associating a set of access links with  
(a) an application object identifier; and  
(b) an organization identifier identifying an organization,  
said set of access links supporting access to documents external to said application;  
10 a link processor for initiating provision of data, the data representing a set of access links, to a user in response to a received organization identifier and a received application object identifier; and  
a command processor for initiating access to an external document using a link in said set of access links in response to user command.

- 15 2. A system according to claim 1, wherein  
said map associates said set of access links with a role identifier, the role identifier identifying a particular user performable role; and  
said link processor initiates provision of data representing said set of access links to a user in response to a received role identifier.

- 20 3. A system according to claim 1, wherein  
said map associates a plurality of sets of access links with  
(a) a plurality of application object identifiers, the object identifiers identifying a corresponding plurality of application objects,  
and

(b) a plurality of organization identifiers, the organization identifiers identifying a corresponding plurality of organizations; and said link processor selects a set of access links from said plurality of sets of access links in response to a received organization identifier and a received application object identifier, the link processor initiating provision of data representing said selected set of access links to a user.

4. A system according to claim 3, wherein said map associates said plurality of sets of access links with a plurality of role identifiers identifying a corresponding plurality of roles performed by a user; and said link processor selects a set of access links from said plurality of sets of access links in response to a received role identifier, the link processor initiating provision of data representing said selected set of access links to a user.

5. A system according to claim 1, wherein said map comprises at least one of (a) a plurality of maps, (b) a data repository, (c) a database, (d) a plurality of databases, and (e) a plurality of data repositories.

6. A system according to claim 1, wherein an access link comprises at least one of (i) a universal resource locator, (ii) an internet protocol address, (iii) a storage file directory address, (iv) a storage file address, (v) a communication port address, (vi) a server address and (vii) an address for use in locating a document; and

a document comprises at least one of (a) a web page, (b) an HTML file, (c) a Word document, (d) an SGML document, (e) an XML document, (f) a multimedia file, (g) an Excel file, (h) a Portable Document Format file, (i) an executable file, (j) a text file and (k) an accessible file.

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7. A system according to claim 1, wherein  
said link processor initiates provision of data representing a menu window  
for displaying said set of access links to a user.

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8. A system according to claim 7, wherein  
said link processor determines an order of display of said access links in  
said menu window based on at least one of (a) a determined relative importance of  
individual access links of said set of access links to a role performable by a user,  
(b) a determined relative importance of access links in said set of access links, (c)  
15 alphabetical order, (d) a determined relative importance of access links of said set  
of access links to an organization and (e) another determined logical order.

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9. A system according to claim 1, wherein  
said command processor initiates access to said external document using a  
link in said set of access links, the access to the external document being initiated  
20 from within said executable application object.

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10. A system according to claim 9, wherein said command processor  
initiates access to said external document using a link in said set of access links  
concurrently with operation of said executable application object.

11. A system according to claim 1, wherein  
said application comprises a laboratory information system and said  
external document comprises information concerning at least one of (a) test  
procedures, (b) chemistry procedures, (c) microbiology procedures, (d)  
5 hematology procedures (e) phlebotomy procedures, (f) instrument support, (g) an  
electronic patient medical record, (h) orders to perform patient procedures, (i)  
laboratory test results and (j) a patient visit.

12. A system according to claim 1, wherein  
an access link supports access to a second and different executable  
10 application; and  
said command processor initiates access to said second application.

13. A system according to claim 1, wherein said organization identifier  
comprises a location identifier.

14. A system enabling a user of an application object, comprising an  
15 executable portion of an executable application, to access documents external to  
said application, comprising:

a map associating a set of access links with

(a) an application object identifier and

(b) a role identifier identifying a particular user performable

20 role,

said set of access links supporting access to external documents;

a link processor for initiating providing data representing a set of access  
links to a user in response to a received role identifier and a received application  
object identifier; and

a command processor for initiating access to an external document using a link in said set of access links in response to user command.

15. A system enabling a user of an application object, comprising an executable portion of an executable application, to access documents external to said application, comprising:

an authorization processor for determining whether a user is authorized to access a particular application object of a plurality of objects within an application in response to a received user identification information and a received application object identifier;

a map associating a plurality of sets of access links with a plurality of application object identifiers identifying a corresponding plurality of application objects, said access links supporting access to external documents; and

a link processor for employing, in response to successful user authorization, said map in selecting a set of access links from said plurality of sets in response to said received application object identifier and for initiating providing data representing said selected set of access links to a user.

16. A system according to claim 15, wherein

said map associates said plurality of sets of access links with at least one of

(a) a role identifier identifying a user performable role and (b) an organization identifier identifying an organization.

17. A system according to claim 16, wherein said link processor selects said set of access links from said plurality of sets in response to at least one of (a) a received role identifier identifying a user performable role and (b) a received organization identifier identifying an organization.

18. A system according to claim 15, including a command processor for initiating access to an external document using a link in said set of selected access links, the command processor initiating access from within an executable application object.

5 19. A system according to claim 15, wherein  
said plurality of sets of access links include prioritized sets of access links;  
and

said link processor selects a single set of access links from said plurality of sets based on set priority.

10 20. A system according to claim 15, wherein said authorization  
processor determines whether a user is authorized to access an external  
document in response to received user identification documentation, the system  
further comprising  
a command processor for inhibiting access to an external document using  
15 a link in said set of selected access links in response to a denial of user  
authorization.

21. A system according to claim 15, wherein  
said authorization processor determines whether a user is authorized to  
access an external document using a link in said selected set of access links in  
20 response to received user identification information; and  
said link processor inhibits providing data representing an access link to a  
user in response to a denial of user authorization to access said external  
document generated by said authorization processor.

22. A system according to claim 15, wherein

said authorization processor maintains an audit trail identifying access to external documents by storing records identifying at least one of (a) a document accessed, (b) a time and date of access, (c) an entity accessing a document and (d) a source of an access request.

5           23.    A method for enabling a user of an application object, comprising an executable portion of an executable application, to access documents external to said application, comprising the steps of:

          associating a set of access links with

          (a) an application object identifier and

10           (b) an organization identifier identifying an organization,

said set of access links supporting access to external documents;

          initiating providing data representing a set of access links to a user in response to a received organization identifier and a received application object identifier; and

15           initiating access to an external document using a link in said set of access links in response to a user command.

          24.    A method for enabling a user of an application object, comprising an executable portion of an executable application, to access documents external to said application, comprising the steps of:

20           associating a set of access links with

          (a) an application object identifier and

          (b) a role identifier identifying a particular user performable role,

said set of access links supporting access to external documents;

          initiating providing data representing a set of access links to a user in  
25 response to a received role identifier and a received application object identifier;  
and

initiating access to an external document using a link in said set of access links in response to a user command.

25. A method of enabling a user of an application object, comprising an executable portion of an executable application, to access documents external to said application, comprising the steps of:

determining whether the user is authorized to access a particular application object of a plurality of objects within an application in response to received user identification information and a received application object identifier;

associating a plurality of sets of access links with a plurality of application object identifiers identifying a corresponding plurality of application objects, said access links supporting access to external documents; and

in response to user authorization, selecting a set of access links from said plurality of sets of access links in response to said received application object identifier and initiating providing data representing said selected set of access links to the user.